

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 06074 040507Z

20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 L-03 H-03 SCI-06 INT-08 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-15

PRS-01 PM-07 DRC-01 /173 W
----- 009174

R 040222Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9911

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMCONSUL HONG

CINCPAC HONLULU

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 6074

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS ENRG PFOR JA TW

SUBJECT: SENKAKU AREA OIL DEVELOPMENT

REF TOKYO 12465

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM LOCAL REPS OF SEVERAL US OIL COMPANIES, WHO HAVE BEEN RELIEABLE INFORMANTS IN PAST, THAT IN JUNE 1973 ROC DID NOTIFY SOME FIFTY OIL COMPANIES THAT EIGHT BLOCKS, INCLUDING FOUR IDENTIFIED IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL AS BEING IN CONTESTED AREA, WERE UP FOR BIDDING. INFO CONTAINED PARA 3 OF REFTEL ALSO CONFIRMED.

2. LOCAL REPS STATE SIX OF BLOCKS (FOUR OUTSIDE AND TWO INSIDE CONTESTED AREA) ARE NOT PARTICULARLY PROMISING. OTHER TWO, HOWEVER, ARE POTENTIALLY VALUABLE. GULF REP REPORTS THAT IF HIS COMPANY WERE NOT CONSTRAINED BY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 06074 040507Z

POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, IT PROBABLY WOULD GIVE UP ALL

REMAINING CONCESSIONS FOR THOSE TWO. NEVERTHELESS, GULF WILL NOT ENTER BIDDING BECAUSE OF COMPANY POLICY NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN AREA CLAIMED BY JAPAN. AMOCO AND OCEANIC REPS ALSO REPORT THEIR COMPANIES WILL NOT SUBMIT BIDS. NAMES OF COMPANIES WHICH WILL ENTER BIDDING NOT KNOWN, BUT MOBIL AND TEXACO REPORTEDLY ARE INTERESTED.

3. EMBASSY IS PUZZLED AS TO WHY ROC SEEMS WILLING STIR UP HORNE'S NEST OF SENKAKU ISSUE WITH JAPAN AT THIS TIME, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF ROC EFFORTS TO PROVE THAT ABSENCE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH JAPAN IS NO BARRIER TO FRUITFUL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RELATIONS. PRESUMABLY SOMEONE IN ROC BELIEVES AWARDED CONCESSIONS WILL STRENGTHEN ROC'S CLAIMS IN AREA. FOCUS ON SENKAKU AREA MAY HAVE ALSO BEEN SHARPENED BECAUSE OF DISAPPOINTING RESULTS OF DRILLING ELSEWHERE AND KNOWLEDGE THAT JAPANESE AND US OIL COMPANIES ARE SEEKING VARIOUS KINDS OF ARRANGEMENTS WITH PRC.

DESPITE THESE AND OTHER POSSIBLE MOTIVES, WE DOUBT ROC DESIRES REAL CONFRONTATION WITH JAPAN BECAUSE IT WOULD PROVOKE SERIOUS DOMESTIC AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS FOR GOVERNMENT.

4. RECOMMENDATION: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT: A) USG--PREFERABLY DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON--INFORM US OIL INDUSTRY THAT ON BASIS OF PAST EXPERIENCE WE CAN EXPECT FIRM JAPANESE ACTION TO PREVENT EXPLORATION IN SENKAKU AREA AND THAT WE WILL NOT ASSIST ADVENTURERS; AND B) EMBASSY SIMULTANEOUSLY INFORM ROC ALONG SAME LINES.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.
GLEYSTEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TAIPEI06074
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS GLEYSTEN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731049/aaaabkdj.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TOKYO 12465
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Nov-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENKAKU AREA OIL DEVELOPMENT
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, JA, TW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005